

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 20 are pending in the application. Claims 5 through 7 and 11 are amended.

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that claims 5 through 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has rewritten claim 5 into independent claim form. Thus, claim 5 is now an allowable independent claim. Claims 6 and 7 were amended to depend from claim 5 and thus claims 6 and 7 remain allowable.

Claims 1, 9, 10, 11 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,267,602 by Mendelson et al, hereinafter "Mendelson". Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 provides a detachable power supply apparatus for an appliance that includes a temperature control device for electrical connection to the appliance and a power supply cord. The temperature control device has a first member extending outwardly from a first side of the temperature control device. A conductor is on the first side of the temperature control device, and a probe is on a second side that is opposite the first side. The power supply cord has a female electrical connector at a first end that connects to the conductor. The female connector is connectable to a power supply to supply power to the female connector and to the conductor. The power supply cord has a second member on the power supply's first end. The first member selectively fastens to the second member so that upon application of a force upon the power supply cord the first member disengages the second member without disturbing a position of the appliance.

Mendelson discloses a detachable power supply apparatus for use with electrical appliances including removable temperature control devices. The apparatus includes a

mounting panel on the temperature control device to which an electrical connector on a power supply cord is magnetically and electrically coupled. The mounting panel includes a ferrous contact plate attached to an outer surface thereof between a pair of conductive pins. The power supply cord includes a female electrical receptacle with a magnet subassembly attached at or near an outer surface thereof. The magnet assembly 73 in the electrical receptacle 46 is aligned with the ferrous contact plate 44 of the mounting panel (col. 6, lines 8-10). The contact plate 44 is attached to a rear or outer surface of a central wall 25 of a plug connection or mounting panel 24 of the temperature control device (col. 5, lines 22-24). A magnetic couple is formed between the mounting panel contact plate 44 and the magnetically conductive plates 76 (col. 6, lines 12-13). The magnetically conductive plates 76 extend forward and outward from the electrical receptacle 46 (col. 6, lines 13-14).

Mendelson connects a power supply cord using a magnetic subassembly that allows the power cord to be removably connected to the temperature control device. However, Mendelson does not provide a first and second member that are **selectively** fastened as recited in claim 1. Mendelson merely describes a magnetic connection, there is nothing selective about the connection of Mendelson. For example, any device that includes some ferrous material may be attached to the power supply cord.

In contrast to Mendelson, claim 1 recites that a "first member selectively fastens to said second member". An example is shown in FIG. 2 of the specification. The power supply cord includes first and second clips 52, 54 that are disposed to be complementary to the first and second members 24, 26 to engage with the first and second members on the temperature control device 10 of Fig. 1 (page 9, lines 11-16). The first and second members 24, 26 of the temperature control device **selectively** fit into and are **selectively** retained in the respective first and the second clips 52, 54 (page 10, lines 5-9).

In another example, the power supply cord 40 may have one, two, three or any number of clips, and the temperature control device 10 may have a complementary

number of bulbous members thereon to **selectively fasten** to the power supply cord 40 (page 12, line 29 – page 13, line 2).

In contrast to the above examples that show that the “first member selectively fastens to said second member” as recited in claim 1, Mendelson merely provides a magnetic assembly that connects to a contact plate by virtue of magnetic force. There is no selectivity. Therefore, Mendelson does not disclose members that “selectively fasten”.

Furthermore, claim 1 recites that the first member extends “outwardly from a first side of said temperature control device”. Mendelson discloses a contact plate 44 that is attached to a rear or outer surface of a central wall of a plug connection or mounting panel of the temperature control device. Mendelson does not disclose that the contact plate **extends outwardly** from the temperature control device.

Thus, Mendelson fails to disclose or suggest the elements of claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Mendelson.

Claims 9 and 10 depend from claim 1. For at least the above reasons, claims 9 and 10 are also patentable over Mendelson.

Independent claim 11 provides a detachable power supply apparatus for an appliance including a temperature control device having a first side and an opposite second side, and a power supply cord having a third side and an opposite fourth side. The temperature control device is electrically connected to the appliance. The temperature control device has a probe extending outwardly from the first side, and a conductor on the second side. The power supply cord has a second conductor at the fourth side to connect to a power supply, and a female connector at the third side for connecting to the first conductor, wherein said second side selectively and removably connects to said third side. Claim 11 was amended to clarify aspects of the invention.

Mendelson, as described above, does not provide a **selective** connection between a temperature control device and a power cord. Mendelson merely provides a magnetic subassembly that connects to a ferrous contact plate by virtue of a magnetic force. There is no selectivity in such a connection. Therefore, Mendelson fails to disclose or suggest the elements of claim 11. Thus, claim 11 is patentable over Mendelson.

Claim 17 depends from claim 11. For at least this reason, claim 17 is also patentable over Mendelson.

For the reasons set forth above, the rejection of claims 1, 9 through 11 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Mendelson is overcome. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1, 9 through 11 and 17 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 18 through 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,159,725 by Dennis, hereinafter "Dennis". Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Independent claim 18 provides a detachable power supply apparatus for an appliance including a first electrical component having a first side and an opposite second side, and a second component having a third side and an opposite fourth side. The first electrical component is electrically connected to the appliance by a first conductive member on the first side, and has a second conductive member on the second side. The second component has a third conductive member connected to a power source at the third side, and has a fourth conductive member at the fourth side. The first electrical component has a bulbous catch pin at a first location of the second side, and the said second component has a clip at a second location on the fourth side. The first location is complementary to the second location so that the clip releasably engages the bulbous catch pin and releases the bulbous catch pin upon an application of a force upon the second component so that a location of the appliance is not

disturbed.

Dennis discloses a detachable electric fixture for magnetically connecting electrical cords including a socket element and a coacting mating plug element (col. 1, lines 6-8). Connection between the plug element and the socket element is effectuated by means of a key slot in one element and an interlocking key slidably engaging with the key slot (col. 1, lines 48-52). The elements are connected together not by means of pushing or pulling but by means of linear sliding action (col. 2, lines 15-17).

However, Dennis does not disclose a **C-shaped** clip, or a **bulbous** catch pin. As shown in Fig. 1, Dennis provides a vertical key slot in a T-shape that interlocks with a T-shaped interlocking key. There is no disclosure in Dennis of a C-shaped member or a bulbous member.

Furthermore, Dennis does not disclose that the “clip **releasably engages** said bulbous catch pin and releases said bulbous catch pin upon an application of a force upon said second component so that a location of the appliance is not disturbed,” as recited in claim 18. Dennis requires that the key be vertically inserted into the key slot. When the key is interlocked with the key slot, the key slot cannot “release” the key through application of a force. The key and key slot must be detached by sliding the plug element with respect to the socket element.

Thus, Dennis fails to disclose or suggest the elements of claim 18. Therefore, claim 18 is patentable over Dennis.

Claims 19 and 20 depend from claim 18. For at least the above reasons, claims 19 and 20 are also patentable over Dennis.

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 18 through 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Dennis is overcome. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 18 through 20 be reconsidered and

withdrawn.

Claims 2 through 4, 8, and 12 through 16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mendelson in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,379,169 by Corona, hereinafter "Corona". Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Corona discloses an electrical plug connector provided with a locking mechanism. The electrical plug locking mechanism includes a cylindrically shaped member extending from the periphery of the male part, and a latch attached to the periphery of the female connector part. This latch is adapted to receive the cylindrically shaped member therethrough, which locks the male and female connector parts together. A female connector part includes a latch 70 on two opposite sides of a housing of the female connector (col. 2, lines 1-2). Latch 70 contains an aperture into which cylindrical shaped flange 100 fits to lock the male and female connector parts together (col. 2, lines 2-5). Cylindrical shaped flanges 100 extend from two opposite sides of a molded housing of a male connector part (col. 2, lines 12-13). Cylindrical shaped flange 100 is made of a resilient rubber so that it can be squeezed through latch 70 and then resume its initial shape to firmly lock the two connectors together (col. 2, lines 21-24).

There is no suggestion or motivation to combine the disclosures of Mendelson and Corona. Mendelson and Corona have very different objects. Mendelson is concerned with increasing safe operation of an appliance by allowing a plug to be detached from a temperature probe by application of a predetermined or preselected lateral or shear force. Corona, in contrast, is concerned with providing a locking mechanism on a plug connector in order to prevent detachment of electrical connectors due to application of force. Mendelson does not disclose or suggest that a locking mechanism would improve the detachable power supply apparatus.

Indeed, inclusion of the locking mechanism of Corona would defeat the purpose of the detachable power supply apparatus of Mendelson. The locking mechanism of

Corona, designed to "firmly lock the two connectors together" (col. 2, lines 23-24), would preclude the ability of the Mendelson power supply to detach should a force be applied due to, for example, pulling on a power supply cord. Thus, because inclusion of the locking mechanism of Corona would render the apparatus of Mendelson unsatisfactory for its intended purpose, there is no suggestion or motivation to make the proposed modification.

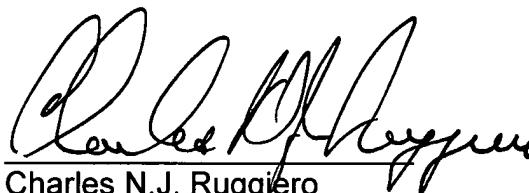
Thus, there is no suggestion or motivation to combine Mendelson and Corona. Therefore, claims 2 through 4, 12 through 16 and 18 are patentable over the cited combination of Mendelson and Corona.

An indication of the allowability of all pending claims by issuance of a Notice of Allowability is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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